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* 205 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received in August 1960 to increase the pension of B.T.'s and others of the same category serving in recognized schools; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The matter is under examination.

Provident Fund Accounts

* 206 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any instances of delay in the encashment of National Savings Certificates of teachers purchased from their Provident Fund accounts have been brought to the notice of the Government; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such delay?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) Two cases of delay in encashment of National Savings Certificate bought from the Teachers' Provident Fund have been brought to the notice. Due to the transfer of records between educational districts, the original records could not be traced and hence the delay.

As such delays are very uncommon, no special steps are considered necessary.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it a fact that they lose interest for the period there is delay in encashment?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes; once they become mature they will have to be encashed. If they are kept without being encashed after maturity, they might lose some interest.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : In view of the fact that Government want to encourage these deposits, should not they just see that the encashment is expedited?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : These things happen only in exceptional cases and I am sure with the experience gained so far, even these defects would be removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT *RE*—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have received a message from the Deputy Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the Madras Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1961

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(L.A. Bill No. 12 of 1961), as passed by the Assembly on the 25th March 1961 for the recommendations of the Council and he has certified that the Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of Article 199 of the Constitution of India.

III—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE WINDING UP OF THE STATE BROADCASTING BRANCH.

* SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under rule 41 (1) of the Madras Council Rules, I seek your permission to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Works to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the decision of the Government to wind up the State Broadcasting Branch of the Public Works Department with effect from 1st April 1961. The State Broadcasting Branch of the Public Works Department has been in existence for over 20 years and now besides Gazetted Officers there are over 200 employees in this branch. If at this stage, Government wind up this branch without definite proposals for the absorption of all the employees without adversely affecting their emoluments and service conditions, it will cause great hardship to all these employees and may perhaps even result in throwing them out of employment after nearly ten years of service. It is therefore necessary that provision has to be made for the absorption of all the employees without adversely affecting their emoluments and service conditions.

It may also be brought to the notice of the Government that this department was established in the year 1938 to maintain the medium of mass contact with the great masses of the people. It has been doing its work with great success. There are at present 4,200 receivers and in the Third Plan the number will considerably increase in which case the maintenance and establishment charges will be considerably decreased. Therefore this department should be considered as a social welfare department, as this is the only way to educate the illiterate adults.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We are not cutting down that programme.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : I want that department to continue for that purpose. It is therefore strongly urged that the orders of the Government be kept in abeyance and further enquiry made into the working of the department.

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : Sir, the State Broadcasting Department was constituted in 1938 with a view to disseminate authentic and latest news to the rural folk in the villages. The main function of the department is to install and maintain community radio sets in rural areas.

A Radio Engineer is in-charge of this department under the administrative control of Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (General). Under the Radio Engineer there are four Assistant Radio Engineers in-charge of four Circles with headquarters at Madras,